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5 MAY 1945

Knighton Rural District Council.

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health,
for 1944.

Knighton.
April 1945.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Knighton Rural District Council.

Mr Chairman, Mrs Coltman Rogers and Gentlemen.

I have pleasure in submitting my Annual Report as your Medical Officer of Health, a position to which I was appointed during the year under review.

Since taking up the duties in July I have been in close touch with all matter concerning the health of the residents in the Rural District.

It is required that a Medical Officer shall report to the Ministry of Health on every phase of health activities in the area of the Authority he serves. Infectious diseases; water and milk supplies; housing, etc, are among the matters that come under his purview.

Social conditions generally have differed little from those of previous years and the same applies to geographical conditions in the Area.

Agricultural workers-men and women alike-form a large proportion of the residents.

Clinical and Treatment Centres.

District Nurses continue to render useful service in maternity; and general cases; while residents in the Rural district are able to attend Ante-natal-Infant Welfare and Tuberculosis clinics.

An Ambulance service operated for cases of infectious disease and another where accidents are met with.

Treatment for venereal diseases can be had at the general hospital, Shrewsbury.

Infectious Disease.

One case of Puerperal fever was notified in June and during October two cases of tuberculosis were reported-one a married woman of 32 years and another a child (girl evacuee) of 6 years, both of whom

died in Denbigh and Shrewsbury hospitals respectively where they were being treated.

In December a case of pneumonia was notified- a man of 34 years which case unfortunately proved fatal.

A number of cases of Measles (all of school age) occurred during April, May, June and July. In each case the attack was mild.

In the early part of the year many cases of Influenzal colds were known to exist affecting persons of both sexes and all ages.

No cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria occurred during the year.

Schools.

There have been few school closures during the year-outbreaks of infectious disease among the scholars being few and far between.

During February the attendance of children of all ages was badly affected, generally by reason of the number who were suffering from influenzal colds.

Happily the absence of all concerned was of short duration.

Following the conversion of the earth closets into approved water closets at Horton School the conditions affecting the school playground there have greatly improved.

PUBLIC HEALTH (PREVENTION OF TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS.

No action has been necessary in any case where persons were employed in the production and distribution of milk.

Periodical enquiries are made into the health of those employed in the milk trade.

FOOD SUPPLY.

Registered and licensed premises were regularly visited to examine the meat of animals slaughtered for food, and vehicles plying in the district with meat, fish and fruit were regularly inspected.

Cottagers and farmers slaughtered large numbers of animals mainly for home consumption and all the carcasses had to be examined as did those of animals which met with accidents and had to be destroyed.

Pigs were slaughtered in great numbers just prior to Xmas.

The meat examined was in general of excellent quality and the quality of other foodstuffs reached a high standard.

Special visits were paid to H.M.S.T.I. establishments in the Area to inspect conditions under which foodstuffs were stored.

In a number of cases at shops, meat pies, unsweetened milk, cakes and butter were found to be inedible badly tainted and unfit for human food.

TENTS, VANS AND SHED ERECTIONS.

Very little action has been necessary in the district this year to deal with these erections, for there have been fewer found than for some years past. No difficulty was experienced in securing the removal of the few encountered.

Those met with were mainly situate on land adjoining the highway.

Conditions as regards refuse heaps, litter, absence of water supply and closet accommodation were unsatisfactory.

One caravan at Beguildy was occupied by a family of seven people. Upon request these responsible moved out of the district much to the relief of residents in that area.

MILK SUPPLY.

The importance of ensuring a pure milk supply is increasingly appreciated and the Council's co-operation with its Officers in the effort to secure such a supply is a helpful factor in this important phase of public health work.

The District's favourable position in regard to milk supplies is a feature. Quite a number of buildings have been adapted to modern requirements. Methods of production, storage and handling have had careful attention.

The regular visits of inspection of all farm buildings for housing dairy cattle revealed the great strides made in adapting buildings and ensuring thorough cleanliness in methods of production.

Clean milk demonstrations were held on May 31st and August 10th at Llandewy Hall and Camdhitten respectively. These were attended by farmer-producers from a wide area-members of Young Farmers' Clubs-Sanitary Inspectors, District Councillors and others interested in the milk industry. Both events were a great success-both from the social and educational standpoints.

MILK TESTING ADVISORY SCHEME.

This scheme was initiated in the early part of 1943 in co-operation with the Ministry of Agriculture, its main object being to save wastage of milk through souring.

Since the inception of the scheme in the Rural District regular sampling has been carried out at the farms where the milk is produced and schools where part of the milk supply is consumed by scholars.

The scheme is of the utmost value to the community at large as a means of improving the quality of the milk supply and consequently the health of the people.

During the year no fewer than 1,337 samples have been taken by your Sanitary Inspector, and submitted for bacteriological examination at Aberystwyth and Builth Wells respectively.

OVERCROWDING.

It has not been found necessary to take official action in regard to overcrowding conditions in any part of your district. There were a number of cases where families lived under such conditions as were considered to be unsatisfactory and unhealthy, and all were satisfactorily dealt with.

LAND WORKERS HOSTEL. WHITTON.

Conditions in regard to the disposal of liquid effluent from the septic tank and the sludge beds-forming part of the drainage system at the Hostel, Whitten, have been satisfactorily dealt with.

The water supply at the Hostel is obtained from a stream in the locality. This is piped to the premises and is subjected to chlorination; an up-to-date plant having been installed for the purpose.

Regular monthly samples are taken for bacteriological examination and the results have proved most satisfactory.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The question of water supplies has occupied attention during the year under review to a remarkable extent and supplies throughout the whole of the area have been kept under observation.

In 319 cases samples were taken from various sources-public and private supplies. Where waters proved unfit steps were immediately taken

to effect necessary improvements for their protection.

Adequacy of the water supply throughout the district was carefully watched and appropriate action taken where shortage was found to exist.

During the summer months the Village public supplies were below normal, though where piped systems are in operation no shortage was reported from any part of the Rural area.

During February a special survey of the supply and water bearing area at Herten was carried out. Samples were taken from the several springs and these proved satisfactory.

The water supply to three County Small Holdings at Bloddfa were found to be both inadequate and unsatisfactory. These conditions were effectively dealt with by the construction of a large three chambered reservoir for receiving, filtering and storage purposes.

As the result of unsatisfactory reports concerning the water at the Hostel, Whitten, the chlorinating plant in use there was thoroughly overhauled in April, since when the analysis of waters taken monthly has been satisfactory.

At Crugbyddar school difficulty was experienced in obtaining water for both drinking purposes and for the cooking of midday meals in the Canteen. The well here-which is the source of supply-is to be deepened.

An inspection of the village supply at Llingunlle in November revealed defects in the piped system which affected the volume and flow of water which should have been available for use. Necessary repairs were promptly carried out which service was greatly appreciated by the residents.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS.

An immense volume of improvements of all kinds has resulted from activity in regard to Housing, water supplies etc.

Large sums of money have been spent in carrying out repairs, structural and sanitary improvements.

The work has involved many meetings on the spot with owners, occupiers and builders, but amicable arrangements have generally been reached between the persons concerned and your Officer.

SANITATION OF LICENSED PREMISES.

Considerable improvements have been effected in regard to the sanitary arrangements in vogue at the licensed premises throughout the district.

Separate water closet and urinal accommodation has been provided for the use of the public, and in most cases internal closet and bathroom accommodation has been provided for the private use of the occupier.

HOUSING.

A good deal of work has been done in regard to housing and much time devoted to this branch of activity.

Good results have been secured in improving existing houses in a number of cases.

Two new cottages have been erected at Felindre, which it is hoped will be ready for occupation in the early part of the coming year.

Plans for the conversion of three cottages into two modern dwellings at Felindre have been approved as also were plans for a new bungalow at Llangunllo to replace a building destroyed by fire,

Because of their generally dilapidated state and consequently their unfitness for human habitation two cottages-one each at Castle Hill, Knucklas and The Lodge, Duthlass, respectively were prohibited from being occupied.

TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING.

A number of meetings took place during June between Officials of the Ministry concerned and your Sanitary Inspector, when broad issues of Reconstruction were discussed.

STALLAGE PARK CAMP.

In the early part of the year a number of meetings were held on the spot between your Sanitary Inspector and Officers of H.M. Forces in regard to the provision of adequate and satisfactory sanitary accommodation for members of the Forces camping here.

Following discussion and consideration of systems most suitable satisfactory decisions were reached and plans were submitted to and approved by your Council.

Later advice was sought by the Officers concerned as to the best means of disposing of the dry refuse at the Camp Assistance was readily given in this matter and the Officers expressed appreciation of the help thus given.

Regular visits were paid to the Camp to advise on matters affecting the sanitary arrangements and disposal of refuse.

SCHOOL CANTEENS MID-DAY MEALS.

Three new buildings have been erected for use at Schools where no mid-day meals were provided, i.e. Stange, Hwysa and Llanithddan.

A series of meetings was held with Officials of the Ministry of Works to discuss the question of internal drainage arrangements at the Canteens. Your requirements in this respect were fully met.

In one case only of the 15 schools in the Rural area, are there no meals being provided, i.e. Glanithon. Arrangements have been made by the County Education Committee for the transfer from Llanbadarn Fawr to Glanithon of the kitchen now in use there.

I have the honour to be,
Your obedient servant.

(Signed) J.G. Gorman, M.D., C.S., L.R.C.P.

Medical Officer of Health.

